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COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
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12/30/04

re: Application 09/683,524

Dear Sirs,

This letter is in response to your Office communication dated 09/20/2004.

Thank you for your help. I have revised my claims according to the format you suggest.

I have reviewed the prior art patents you have listed and have reworded the claims to include specifically the elements that distinguish my invention from the prior art.

We agree that compressed speech is not novel on the Internet. What is novel in the proposed invention is the unique combination of compressed speech activated by no direct event or link by the recipient, i.e., the viewer or listener, done without requiring unique code present in the recipient's computer, and done via instructions transmitted in the document itself.

For example, Wise depends on direct effort - the recipient must use a telephone handset and dial a known phone number and then prompt the browser program to select desired speech segments. Pre-arrangement is also necessary in order to insure that the code necessary is in the Internet browser prior to receiving direct phone calls. In Wise, the document referred is used solely for text and audio content. No computer code is transmitted by the document.

I found directly contrary elements in all of the listed patents like the Wise example above:

1. Direct effort by the intended recipient;
2. Pre-arrangement to insure special code is present in the recipient's computer, and
3. No code transmitted in the document.

I believe these three elements in combination with Internet compressed voice is novel. Because the patents you cite teaches direct contrary elements, I believe the combination is also unobvious.

Please replace all of the claims with the following three:

Claims

1. A method for selecting, transmitting, and decoding compressed speech segments in an interactive network comprising the following steps:

digitizing and compressing speech segments;

encoding sets of instructions for selecting, requesting, decoding, and playing speech segments within a document,

storing said speech segments and documents on a computer connected to an interactive network,

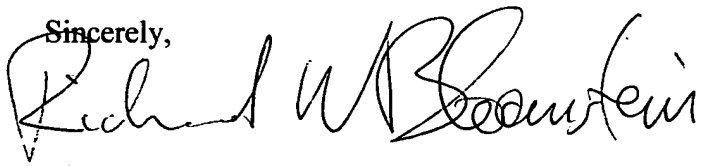
transmitting said document to a remote computer,

activating said sets of instructions for selecting, requesting, decoding, and playing speech segments at the remote computer based on events not directly related or directly linked to said speech segments.

2. A method in claim 1. where said interactive network is the Internet.

3. A document encoded with sets of instructions for selecting, requesting, decoding, and playing speech segments at a remote computer on an interactive network.

Sincerely,



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